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WHAT'S INSIDE

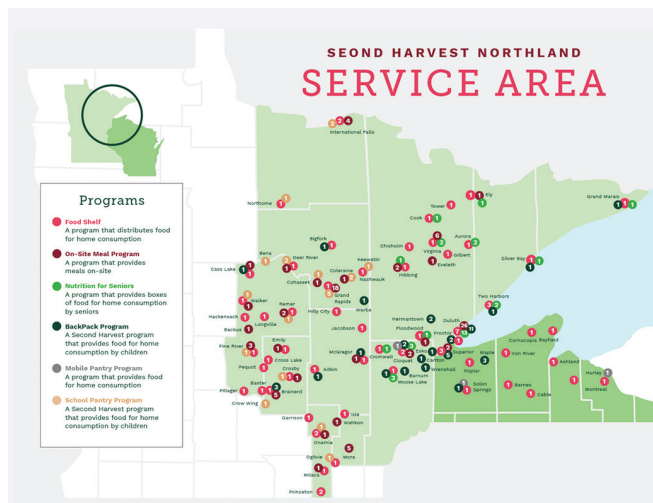
\$53 MILLION TO EXPAND BROAD-BAND TO 8,900 HOMES AND BUSINESSES
Page 2

LEGALS
Page 3

OBITUARIES
Page 4

CLASSIFIEDS
Page 5

Duluth and Grand Rapids food banks join forces Aitkin and Crow Wing counties are among 15 served by Second Harvest Northland



By ANN SCHWARTZ
A food support agency that supports many local food shelves and programs has merged.

Second Harvest Northland combines Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank and Second Harvest North Central Food Bank. Some programs it serves in the area include food shelves in Emily, Crosslake, Jacobson and Hill City and the Brainerd Salvation Army, as well as Mobile Food Pantries and Nutrition for Seniors.

This agency gets donated food from corporations and farms and purchases food to stock food shelves and serve

other food-related agencies in the area.

"This merger will have critical impact on our agency and community partners as well as neighbors experiencing food insecurity directly," said Shaye Moris, the executive director of the newly formed agency in an interview. With huge warehouses in Grand Rapids and Duluth, 30 employees and 1,700 volunteers, their aim is to feed even more people experiencing the need for food.

"During the last fiscal year, our west facility in Grand Rapids distributed 1.5 million pounds of food, the equivalent of 1.2 million meals,"

noted Moris.

When Sue Estee, director for Second Harvest North Central Food Bank, began to talk about retirement, merger talks began. Second Harvest Northland now serves 15 counties: St. Louis, Carlton, Lake, Cook, Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Itasca, Koochiching, Kanabec and Mille Lacs as well as Northeast Wisconsin's Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Iron counties. "The warehouses in Duluth and Grand Rapids support 113 agencies and community partners who host 268 programs. We provide more than 10 million nutritious meals and reach more than 70,000 food insecure children, seniors and adults annually," according to a press release.



It is hoped that with the merger, the amount and variety of nutritious food distributed can increase. They also hope to successfully scale programs, services, fundraising, food sourcing, public engagement financial management, human resources and technology and advocacy, while reducing overhead and duplication of services. Their mission remains focused on ending hunger in

Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin. "In short, we want to reach more food insecure households with more food, in an equitable fashion, across the region," summed up Moris.

Second Harvest Northland offers a variety of volunteer opportunities. For more information call 218-336-2303 or log on to their website: secondharvestnorthland.org.

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Governor Walz announces \$53 million to expand broadband access

Governor Tim Walz announced on Tuesday over \$50 million in grants to expand broadband access to an estimated 8,900 homes and businesses throughout Minnesota.

"We're investing in broadband infrastructure statewide to help thousands of Minnesotans connect to jobs, education, healthcare, and their communities," said Governor Walz. "Helping more Minnesotans get online at high speeds is one of the ways we're making Minnesota the best state for families, workers, and businesses."

Twenty four broadband ex-

pansion projects will receive grants from the Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) Office of Broadband Development, helping deploy new broadband infrastructure around Minnesota. Using the grant funding, providers plan to expand high-speed broadband – offering speeds of at least 100 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 20 Mbps upload – in 25 counties across Minnesota.

Grant awards by project can be found below and on DEED's website.

"Multiple rounds of historic grant funding have dramati-

cally improved high-speed broadband access for thousands of Minnesotans," said DEED Commissioner Matt Varilek. "Broadband is a significant equity issue, and as a Greater Minnesota resident in rural Benton County, I hear firsthand from local businesses, students and neighbors about the impact broadband access has on their lives and livelihoods."

The grants come from two DEED programs:

\$33.3 million from DEED's flagship Border-to-Border Broadband Program, through which broadband provider grantees are reimbursed for

up to half the eligible cost of deploying broadband infrastructure, with funding for a single project capped at \$10 million.

\$19.7 million from the Low Population Density Program, which offers grants to providers building broadband service to areas of Minnesota with particularly low population densities and high broadband deployment costs. The grants can be worth up to \$10 million and cover up to 75% the total cost of a project.

DEED will open another \$50 million grant round for broadband infrastructure development later this month.

"Broadband is an essential resource that not only helps Minnesota communities attract new business and help existing ones grow and thrive, but also gain and retain the workforce that supports business and community vitality," said DEED Deputy Commissioner for Economic Development Kevin McKinnon. "Broadband use across nearly all industries and sectors – from high-tech manufacturing to agriculture – continues to grow, and a robust infrastructure gives our state a competitive economic edge."

"As the Office of Broadband Development enters its 10th year, I'm inspired by – and grateful for – our ongoing partnership with broadband providers as we work together to deploy reliable, high-speed broadband to the Minnesotans who need it," said DEED Office of Broadband Development Executive Director Bree Maki. "Congratulations to today's grantees and thank you for your commitment to Minnesota's communities."

"The Minnesota Telecom Alliance (MTA) is very excited about this latest grant round award," said Brent Christensen, president and CEO of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance. "MTA members have an established track record, since the beginning of the program, of leveraging Border-to-Border Broadband

Grant dollars to further the deployment of quality high-speed internet service to all corners of our State. We share the State's goal of deploying quality broadband to all Minnesotans and applaud the foresight of the Governor and Legislature for securing the funds to keep this program moving forward."

"Minnesota Cable's member companies are committed to delivering essential high-speed broadband connections in every corner of our state," said Melissa Wolf, executive director of MN Cable. "My members are proud to partner with the State of Minnesota's Office of Broadband Development and local communities to help close the digital divide by bringing reliable and affordable broadband into the most difficult areas to serve."

Today's grant announcement is one of several initiatives underway to expand broadband access in Minnesota.

Over the last ten years, DEED has provided nearly \$350 million in Border-to-Border or Low Population Density grants, providing broadband access to nearly 112,000 homes and businesses. In addition to these programs, DEED is implementing the Line Extension Program, which expands broadband service to individual homes and businesses that lack it. So far, that program will connect 840 customers to broadband through partnerships with 20 broadband providers.

DEED will also manage \$652 million in federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (or BEAD) Program funding to expand broadband to the most unserved and underserved Minnesotans. DEED also recently finalized the state's draft Digital Opportunity Plan, detailing how Minnesota proposes to reduce gaps in broadband access, digital technology ownership and digital skills using an upcoming grant

from the federal government.

List of Border-to-Border Grantees by County:

- Anoka, Chisago - Midco \$801,700
- Blue Earth, Faribault - Easton Telephone Company \$435,838
- Brown, Cottonwood - Hanson Communications \$395,138
- Chippewa, Renville - Hanson Communications \$2,081,494
- Clay - Red River Communications \$970,411
- Douglas - Gardonville Cooperative Telephone \$223,521
- Fillmore - Mediacom LLC \$33,863
- Isanti - East Central Energy \$4,885,809
- Kandiyohi - Federated Telephone Cooperative \$8,202,000
- Meeker - Cooperative Light & Power Association \$590,709
- Mahnomen - Arvig \$326,111
- Mower - Spectrum Mid-America, LLC \$414,699
- Pine, Aitkin - Savage Communications Inc \$3,563,817
- St. Louis - Consolidated Telephone Company \$2,292,790 and Mediacom LLC \$961,102
- Stearns - Albany Mutual Telephone Association \$7,123,175
- Total: \$33,302,177

List of Low Population Density Grantees by County:

- Goodhue - Nuvera Communications, Inc \$1,884,429
- Kittson - Wikstrom Telephone Company - \$3,066,630
- Morrison - Upsala Cooperative Telephone Assoc. dba Sytek \$3,689,967
- Mower - Arvig \$3,129,412
- Pipestone - Woodstock Telephone Company \$1,612,932
- Polk - Garden Valley Telephone Company \$1,050,465
- Stearns - Arvig \$910,537
- Waseca - Bevcomm Inc \$4,385,444
- Total: \$19,729,816



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READER RIBBETS

Government trumps your religion

For all the radical things Democrats have done with full control of the Capitol during the last year, what happened last Thursday might top it all.

That was the day House Democrats officially blew Minnesota's separation of church and state out of the water. That was the day they openly declared war on religion, saying the state's view trumps your religious beliefs.

As a proud American, this cuts to my core because religious freedom is the very foundation upon which our republic was built. As a pastor, this weighs on my heart because I am proud of the word of God guides my conscience.

But what happened Thursday is almost incomprehensible in what has been known as the Land of the Free. Here's a rundown of exactly how House Democrats made it crystal clear that, to them, the state's views trump your religious beliefs:

Before last year, when gender identity was included (or subsumed) within the Minnesota Human Rights Act's definition of sexual orientation, the still-existing religious exemption for sexual orientation covered gender identity claims as well. When a new, separate definition of gender identity was created last year, there was no corresponding religious exemption added.

When faith groups first expressed concern over this issue, many assumed this was an oversight, and the department and majority would support a fix to restore the status quo as it existed from 1993-2023. But that fix is missing from the department's bill presented this year, which is why, at the request of Minnesota's faith community, a fellow House Republican crafted an amendment to rectify this situation.

The amendment restores the religious exemption in the MHRA protecting religious organizations and faith-based schools against claims of gender identity discrimination. The exemption ensures that religious organizations and faith-based schools can, among other things, hire teachers and ministers consistent with their mission and values. Already, at least one faith-based school is facing an employment complaint at the department of human rights because of the removal of the exemption.

Unfortunately, the Democrat majority refused to fix the problem it created and voted down the amendment along party lines. Not only that, but House Democrats plainly stated, for the public record, that there was no mistake. They have purposely declared the state the head of the church in the MHRA.

Serious question: When do

pastors have to be concerned about being sued for quoting Jesus from the pulpit on Sunday morning? What if I stand before the congregation and cite Matthew 19:4, which reads: "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'"?

This is fundamentally a red alert regarding the direction our state is heading under full control of Democrats. They have called open season on our religious faith while projecting totalitarianism on us all, as if the American Revolution never happened. They have erased the separation of church and state after assuring us for years their anti-discrimination push would spare religious entities.

It's bad enough that Democrats keep coming for our tax dollars and our guns while legalizing abortion up until the moment of birth, etc. But at least we expect that from them. Now, Democrats have revealed they are coming for our foundational, quintessential American religious freedoms, which is a whole new level of threat.

This is a sad indictment of the soulless, radical Democrat faction that has total control of our government and placed the state over the church.

**State Rep. Ben Davis
District 6A**

Hazelton Township toxic environment

McFarlane is the same guy that criticized Sheriff Guida over issues in the cities. I also will be voting for Guida when the time comes. Our law enforcement officers go to work everyday serving the community, they deserve our respect and support. I was surprised there wasn't a single application for an officer position in Aitkin.

It is way to easy to make up fictional truths. The lie about me having a thermos of coffee at the election town hall all day, influencing votes is typical of this guy. Having worked for Hazelwood Music for 43 years, election Tuesday is just another work day. Work 'til 5, 20 minutes drive to hall, voted, asked a neighbor how their new house was coming, she replied a lot of yard work to do, hit the restroom and went home for supper before 6. Not a lot of time to influence others votes.

Our town hall was built as a community center, with the current board it is becoming a toxic environment between raising the rent, which caused our quilters to have to leave, having a celebration of life confronted. A local business was mandated to renew their liquor license and was verbally attacked for being at the meeting. She was quite upset. Ask her how she was treated, you will get an ear full.

Last month, the board ac-

cused the Election Judges of election fraud / relieving (firing) them. Appointing their replacements, one of which is McFarlane, offering him \$100.00 an hour, which he replied he didn't need the money, and planned on working for free. The charity he oversees must pay well. He and this board are buddies. I can't see how this guy could ever be impartial.

There was a weekly schedule for blading so chloride wasn't needed. I see at some time calcium will be a controlled product, we can't keep putting this saline solution in the environment. Times coming this product will have DIRE consequences. At last years cost, \$18,550.00 mile six miles = \$111,300.00 for gravel. Another 64 grand chloride on all roads / \$2,300 a mile.

As for my resignation, having worked 22 years for Aitkin County as a Township Supervisor / Chairman, there were numerous decisions being made outside of meeting / and receiving no support from the Township Association with these issues I felt it was a losing battle.

The latest one is awarding the contractor the job then working for him, paid by contractor or township?

With the community knowing me at Hazelwoods / Township / 30 plus years, several as president, with Riceland Whitetails - MDHA, thousand plus thru our youth program at Wealthwood gun club I have to think these fictional attacks are seen as just that FICTION.

P.S.: vote Craig Adams for a change March 12th.

Dan Bobseen, Aitkin

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LEGAL NOTICES

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, February 24, March 2 & 9, 2024)
COURT FILE NO. 18-CV-24-518
STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF CROW WING NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Case Type: Quiet Title Action
Brandon L. Andersen a/k/a Brandon L. Anderson and Jill M. Andersen a/k/a Jill M. Anderson, Plaintiffs,
vs.
Robert J. Ferris, Rebecca Lawson, Sarah Lawson, and any unknown persons claiming any interest in the real estate described herein, Defendants.

SUMMONS
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

You, and each of you, are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Plaintiff's attorneys an answer to the Complaint which is on file in the office of the Court Administrator of the above-named Court, within twenty-one (21) days after the service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of such service.

If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

You are further advised that this is an action to determine adverse claims to the following described real estate, situated in the County of Crow Wing, State of Minnesota, to-wit: All that part of Government Lot 1, Section 35, Township 136 North, Range 28 West, Crow Wing County, Minnesota designated as DRY SAND BEACH adjoining Lot 2, SUNSET BEACH, according to the recorded plat thereof, Crow Wing County, Minnesota, lying between the northerly extensions of the easterly and westerly lines of said Lot 2, southerly of the shore of Pelican Lake and northerly of the northerly line of said Lot 2. Dated: February 12, 2024 BREEN & PERSON, LTD. /s/ J. Brad Person J. Brad Person, Esq. #0296302 Alex D. Kuhn, Esq. #0395479 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 124 N. 6th Street, PO Box 472 Brainerd, MN 56401 Telephone (218) 828-1248

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, March 2 & 9, 2024)
TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE PINE NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
The annual meeting for the Township of Little Pine will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 8:00 p.m.

In the case of inclement weather the meeting will instead be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at Emily City Hall, Conference Room A, 39811 State Highway 6, Emily, MN 56447

The meeting is also accessible via Zoom
Meeting ID: 780 450 6554
Password: 56447

Dated: February 24, 2024
ABRA HAWLEY
Little Pine Township Clerk 3.5

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, March 2 & 9, 2024)
KIMBERLY TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. on March 12, 2024 to conduct all necessary business as prescribed by law and held at Glen/Kimberly Town Hall. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be postponed until March 19, 2024.

Please contact the clerk at 612-619-6742 or kimberly-clerk06@gmail.com for copies of reports or any questions.

Dated: February 24, 2024
MIA RAPOPORT,
Kimberly Township Clerk 3.00

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, February 24, March 2 & 9, 2024)
LIBBY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Libby Township, County of Aitkin, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the Palisade Community Center. The Annual Meeting will commence at 1:00 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. In case of inclement weather, the meeting may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March.

Dated this 19th day of February 2024
JANE GRIMSBO JEWETT,
Clerk Libby Township 3.5

(Published in NewsHopper Saturday, February 24, March 2 & 9, 2024)
LIBBY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT

The Libby Township Board of Audit will be held at the Palisade Community Center on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Dated this 19th day of February 2024
JANE GRIMSBO JEWETT,
Clerk Libby Township 2.1

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OBITUARIES

JEFFREY MARTINSON



Jeffrey Lee Martinson, 50, of Aitkin, died unexpectedly on Thursday, February 29, 2024 from a fatal automobile accident.

Services will be held Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral home in Aitkin with Pastor Dallas Smith officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. A luncheon will follow the service.

Jeff was born on December 18, 1973 in Sauk Centre to Duane and Eileen (Knudson) Martinson. Jeff graduated from Monticello High School in 1992 and soon after started working at J&B Wholesale as a meat cutter. Jeff eventually got into the roofing business and spent many years on many roofs. He later became a contractor for home remodels and enjoyed making sure his customers had the best experience. From the get-go, Jeff was always the life of a gathering. No one was a stranger to Jeff, as he easily made friends and could talk with anyone. His family was his priority in life. He loved his family, and you could often find him at his kids' sporting

events or on the lake fishing with his boys. In the last few years, he found a new passion and took up golfing. If he wasn't hitting balls on the course, he was out after hours finding them. He loved to laugh and make everyone around him feel good. He gave the best hugs to everyone he knew and if he loved you, he loved you with his whole heart and you knew it. He would give you the shirt off his back and never hesitated when someone needed help. His cheerful attitude and bright smile will be missed.

He is survived by his partner in life, Savannah (Voss) Martinson and his children: Jordan, Andrew, Adam, Alex Martinson, Cole Dehmer and Payton, (who was the daughter he never had); mother, Eileen Martinson; siblings: Brad Martinson, Greg Martinson, Dawn Martinson and Randy Martinson, as well as many aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Jeff is preceded in death by his father, Duane Martinson; grandparents, Orion and William Martinson and Elsie and Chester Knudson.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

MAE HEGLUND



Mae Elizabeth (Ruttger) Heglund, 97, of Crosby died Monday, March 4, 2024 at her son's home in Ironton.

Services will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Cascade United Methodist

Church in Deerwood.

More details and a complete obituary will be published at a later date once arrangements are finalized.

Arrangements are with the Koop Funeral Home of Crosby. To leave a message of condolence go to www.koopfuneralhome.com.

BARRY ACKLEY



Barry Trent Ackley, 76 of Staples died Friday, February 23, 2024 at Essentia - St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth.

A Memorial Celebration will be held at a later date with burial in Diamond Lake Cemetery.

He was born April 20, 1947 in Sigourney, Iowa to Albert D. and Bernice V. (Bair) Ackley. He graduated from Aitkin High School in 1965. He attended Minneapolis Community Technical College and later Staples Vo-Tech earning a degree in Tool and Die Design. Barry lived in Staples and worked many different jobs during his life including small engine repair that

he learned from his father. He enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, trapping, fishing and shooting.

Barry is survived by his brother and sister-in-law: Craig and Shell Ackley of Glen; sisters and brothers-in-law: Jackie and Al Midthun of Mora and Cindy and Gary Raynor of Eagan; 10 nieces and nephews: Joe Midthun, Anna Gaffey, Katie Piecek, Levi, Isaac, Hannah and Sam Ackley, Josh, Julie and Ben Raynor; many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Albert and Bernice Ackley.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

DOUGLAS HENSEL



Douglas James Hensel, 75, of Palisade died Monday, February 26, 2024 at Grand Village in Grand Rapids.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at Assembly of God Church in Palisade. Burial with full military honors was at Pine Grove Cemetery.



He was born November 28, 1948 in Aitkin to Edwin and Frances (Tibbetts) Hensel. He grew up in the Palisade - Aitkin area and graduated from Aitkin High School in 1966. He was a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran serving in the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged in 1970. Douglas worked many jobs including in assembly for Sundstrand Aviation in Rockford, IL. He was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan and enjoyed hunting, fishing, riding ATV, and

wildlife conservation. He was a member of the NRA, American Legion, and Palisade VFW Post #1721.

Douglas is survived by his two children: Shawndee Hensel and Kaeleb Hensel, their mother Charlotte Lee (Hale) Hensel; grandson: Joel Anderson; siblings: Steve (Donna) Hensel, Paulette (Ed) Torgerson, Rodney Hensel, Shirley Kehn Johnson; brother-in-law: Harland Simonson; sisters-in-law: Cookie Hensel and Janice Hensel; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Edwin and Frances Hensel, siblings: Lucille Hoge, Elizabeth (Chester) Catlin, Joyce (Dick) Laird, Leroy (Beverly) Hensel, Kenneth Hensel, Harriet Simonson, and Sidney Hensel, sister-in-law: Mary Hensel, and brother-in-law: Ken Johnson.

Arrangements were with the Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Aitkin. Leave online condolences at www.srtfuneral.com.

Dickie Gadbois Memorial Benefit

A day of fun and remembrance will be held on Saturday, March 9 for the Dickie Gadbois Memorial Benefit hosted by MSA Flagship, located at 5357 Whistle Road, in Isle. Call Paul at 320-364-9024 for more information.

Benefit buttons are \$15 each and will be available at the door

starting in the morning.

The scheduled Perch Tournament has been canceled due to ice conditions. The benefit will now start at 1 p.m. with raffle drawings including augers, fish houses, guide trips, apparel, gift certificates, underwater cameras and much more. Also starting at

1 p.m., food by Smokin' Mortars will be available including a pulled pork sandwich, smoked mac 'n cheese, baked beans and coleslaw for a free-will donation.

Master of Ceremonies will be Mike "Cold Front" Kurre; and a silent auction will be until 5 p.m. and a live auction will be 5-8 p.m.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

* Indicates handicap accessible. NOTE: All times are Sunday morning (a.m.) unless indicated otherwise.

ALLIANCE

Aitkin* — New Life; Larry Burg & Tyrel LaValle, pastors; Worship 10:15 am & 6pm; youth group Wed. 6pm; 11-1st Street SW; newlifeaitkin.com 218-927-2823.
Baxter* — Pointway Alliance Church; Rev. Charles Bolstridge, 218-537-6505; 7756 Highland Scenic Road; Worship 10; www.pointway.org
Garrison* — Worship 10:30am
Onamia — Vineland Native American Chapel, Hwy. 169 north of casino; Worship 11; Pastor Boeringa 320-532-4449

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Aitkin* — Pastor Andrew Jergenson; Sunday Morning Service 10.
Baxter — Heritage Church, Pastor Heath Beard; 9 & 10:45 Sundays, 6:30p Wednesdays, iamheritage.org
Crosby — Pastor Dustin McCaleb; Worship 10:30
Crosslake* — Crossroads Christian, Rev. Gary Espeseth; SS at 9:30; Worship at 10:45
Hill City — Interim Pastor John Koppel, Staff Pastor Lisa Jordan; Worship 10; hilcityagchurch@gmail.com; 218-697-2662
Palisade — Pastor Charlie Bell; SS 9; Worship 10; Kids Church; Small groups during the week 218-845-2726

BAPTIST

Aitkin — Northwoods Community Church (formerly The Journey North) Tom Hoffman, interim pastor, Worship 10:30, northwoodscommunitychurch.org
Baxter — The Journey North, Worship 9 & 10:30, 218-824-5617 thejourneynorth.com
Brainerd* — Faith Baptist Church, Pastor Jim Stephens, 218-829-3191; SS 9:00, Worship 10:30 and 6 p.m.; Wed. Classes and Clubs 6:30 p.m.; fbcbrainerd.com
Brainerd- The Church On The Wise Road, Pastor Todd Stumbo 218-829-4673, Worship 11:00, SS 9:45 www.thechurchontheisewiseroad.org
Breezy Point — Eagles Nest, Pastor Zach Broom 218-562-5252, Worship 9:30, SS 11.
Crosby — Bible Baptist, Pastor Jon Thorson; SS 9:45; Service 10:45 and 6 p.m., Bible Study Wed. 7 pm
Deerwood* — Jeff Sadrick, SS 9:30; Worship 10:30 and 6 pm; Wed. Service, 6:30 pm.
Glory* — Pastor Chris Meirose; 927-3678; SS 9:15; Worship 10:30 am.; Wed 6pm Glory Family night, KidMin grades kindergarten - 6, Mad4Christ grades 7-12, aitkinchurch.com
Hill City — Pastor Lonnie Lee; 218-697-2645; Adult SS 9; Worship 10 am; Bible Study, Fri., 7 pm.
Isle — Pastor Nick Skogen; 676-3171; SS 9:30; Service 10:30; Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m.
Opstead — 676-8859; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.

CATHOLIC

Aitkin* — St. James, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sat. 5 pm, Sun. 10:30. Confession Sat. 10-10:45 and 4-4:45 pm.
Brainerd — St. Andrew's, Fr. Gabriel Waweru, Sat. 4:30; Sun. 10:00 and St. Mathias Sunday 8:00.
Brainerd — St. Francis, Fr. Michael Garry, Sat. 5:00; Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 and All Saints Saturday 4:00 and Sunday 10:30.
Cromwell/Wright — Immaculate Conception, Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.
Crosby* — St. Joseph's, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass: Thurs. and Fri. at 8; Tues at noon, Sun. 8:30 & 10:30.
Crosslake — Immaculate Heart, 218-692-3731; www.ihmstemihs.org; Mass: Sat. 4 pm; Sun. 8:30; Confession Sat. 3 pm.
Emily — St. Emily, Mass: Mon. & Wed. 8; Sun. 10:30; Confession 1st Sat. 11 or by appt. 218-763-2101.
Garrison — Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Eli Gieske, Mass Wed. 9 & Sat. 4 pm, Confession Sat. 3:30 - 3:50 pm
Grand Rapids — St. Joseph's, Fr. Jerry Weiss, Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 8 & 10:30. 218-326-2483
Hillman — Holy Family; Sun. 10 to Mass Sat. 6:30 pm (only through Labor Day) w/ confession before or by appt.
McGregor — Holy Family, Fr. Mike Patullo, 218-927-6581; Mass Sun. 8; Confessions Tues. 5:30-6:30 pm
Vineland — St. Therese, Mass Sun. 11; Holy Days 8:30.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Baxter, Lakes Area — Nondenominational; 7001 Highland Scenic Road; Bible Study every Wed. 7 pm; Worship 10:30-11:30. 218-828-1362
Tamarack — Pastor Terry Banker, 608-475-1528, Worship 9:30; SS 10:45; Wed Youth 4 pm.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Aitkin — Co. Rd. 12, Chapel Ph. 218-927-4454; Kevin Hafner 218-792-5684; Sacrament Mtg. 10

COMMUNITY

Aitkin — Nondenominational; 927-2749; at 219-1st Ave. NE., Aitkin, Services Sun. 10, 218-927-6959

Brainerd - Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene- Pastor Dave McGaffey Sunday worship at 10, SS 9; 16549 Johnson Rd - church phone 218-829-9005
Glen — Pastor R. F. Stauter, 218-838-1981; Worship 9 May-Oct.

Grand Rapids — Solid Rock Church of God, Pastor Robert Kimberling; 218-326-0711; Sun. BS 9:30, Worship 10:30; Wed. BS 6:30 pm
Jacobson — Jacobson Community Church, Pastor George Collins, 218-252-5938, Sun. SS (All ages) 9:30, Worship 10:30; Family Time 2nd & 4th Sundays; Wed. BS 7 pm
Kimberly — Nature Ave. Rev. Rick Perry; Worship 9; Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30; 218-927-6256.

McGregor — Amazing Grace Christian Church; Worship 10; 99 South 1st Street (at the McGregor United Methodist church [shared] in downtown McGregor) Pastor Joel Seibel.
McGregor — Victory Mission, Pastor J. Gould, 218-768-2160; Sun. 10; Wed. Bible Study, 7:30 pm.
Merrifield — Community Church of the Nazarene, Pastor Ron Christenson; Service 11 & 6 pm. Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; 218-829-7536.
Merrifield — Ossipee Community, SS 10; Service 11; Wed. Bible Study Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

Nisswa — Christ Community Church, Pastor Richie Bean; Service 10; Fellowship 9:30-10
Outing* - Narrows Community Church, Pastor Kenny Holm, 218-792-5530 Worship 9:30; 6297 Woods Bay NE, just north of Hwy. 6 bridge
Palisade — Hilltop Chapel (Waukenabo Twp)* - service 10 a.m.; Adult and Children's SS 9 a.m.; 49448 Osprey Avenue, Palisade.

Tamarack — Church of Christ, 218-768-3898; Service 9:30; SS 10:45.

EPISCOPAL

Aitkin — St. John's, Holy Communion or Morning Prayer 9
Brainerd* — St. Paul's, Rev. Joyce A. Rush. In-person worship service at 10 am Sunday. Online at 5 pm Saturday. Call the church 219-829-3834 and leave a message with email to receive a Zoom invitation.
EVANGELICAL FREE
Baxter — Lakewood EFC, Pastor Matt Nagel; Worship at 9:00 and 10:45. Wednesday for all ages 6:30 pm.
Crosslake — The Log Church 9:30, Pastor Troy Nelson; 218-692-4141, 37218 County Road 66, www.crosslakeefc.org
Isle — Pastor Mark Lee; Sunday School 9:00 am; Worship 10:30 am, Sun. Youth group 6:00 pm, Wed. Adult Prayer 6:30 pm and Kids Connect 6:30 pm
Malmo — Pastor Glenn Browning; SS 9:30; Fellowship 10; Worship 10:15
Wright — Pastor Ken Mitchell, 218-426-5115; SS 9:30; Worship, 10:30; Thu., Bible Study, 7 pm.

HEBREW/MESSIANIC

Glen — Beth Shalom Tabernacle of Truth, Rabi Frank Dell, for information 320-684-2804
LUTHERAN
Aitkin — Bethlehem (ELCA), Rev. Rebecca Hinz; Worship 9:30; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun each month.
Aitkin — First* (ELCA) Pastor Reggie Denton; worship Sun. 99am (9am service also available via livestream on YouTube — First Lutheran Church, Aitkin and broadcast on KKIN 94.3 FM radio at 10am), take out community meal every Mon. & Thurs. 5pm and Tues. 12pm; food shelf 2nd & 4th Thurs. each month 9am- 4pm.
Aitkin (Cedarbrook) — St. John's (ELCA); Worship 9:00; Holy Comm. 1st & 3rd Sun.
Aitkin — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor D. Becker; Worship Sun. 9, SS 10
Baxter — Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool (WELS). Pastor Bill Werth. Sunday Worship 9. Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 10:15. 13815 Cherrywood Dr. in Baxter. (Corner of Ingelwood and Cherrywood). 218-829-4105. www.christbaxter.com.

Baxter — Prince of Peace (LCMS); Communion every Sunday 9, Fellowship 10:15, Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30 am 218-829-7092 www.princeofpeacechurch.com
Beaver Township — Finnish EA, Hwy. 27, Worship 1st & 3rd Sun., 10:30.
Brainerd — First Lutheran Church (ELCA) Pastors: Patty Bjorklund and Jordan Gades, Sunday worship 9, Sunday School following worship. Services also available on YouTube and Facebook. 218-829-9552 fcbbrainerd.com 424 8th Street South, Brainerd

Brainerd* — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Pastor David Franz, find service info at www.goodshepherdfreechurch.org, 5878 Pine Beach Road, Brainerd, 218-824-3052

Brainerd — Laestadian Lutheran Church, 1501 So. 8th St. - Sunday Worship Services 10:30 am. (www.lchurch.org)

Brainerd — Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1420 South 6th St. Brainerd, Worship time September through May 8:15am & 10:30am; worship (June through August) 9 am. 218-829-5147. Website: www.trinitybrainerd.org. Email: trinity@trinitybrainerd.org

Brainerd — Truth Lutheran Church (LCMC, Pastor James Walth, Corner of 5th and Kingwood, Worship 9

Brainerd - Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Steve Benson, Sunday Worship 9, Monday Worship 6 pm. Education hour Sunday 10:15 am. 220 N. 8th St. Brainerd. 218-829-4317. www.zionbrainerd.com.

Cedar Lake, Norwegian Lutheran — Third Sun 11, May - Oct. Crosby — Immanuel (LCMC, NALC) Rev. Paul Mattson; Sun. 9 & 10:30 worship; SS (Sept.-May) 10:40.

Crosby — Zion (LC-MS) Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 8:30; SS 10; Bible Study Wed. 7 pm; handicap accessible. 218-546-6910

Crosslake Lutheran Church (ELCA) www.crosslakelutheran.com • 218-692-3682 Kristin Oltmann, Senior Pastor; Becky Swanson, Associate Pastor. Labor Day-Mem. Day: Sun. 9:30am, Wed. 6:15pm; Mem. Day-Labor Day: Sun. Indoor 8:30am, Outdoor 10am

Crosslake — Mission of the Cross (LCMS), Pastor Leslie Uhrinak; Worship 9:30 with every Sunday Communion, Fellowship 10:30, Adult Bible Class 11, 218-692-4228, www.missionofthecross.org

Deerwood* — Salem (ELCA), Pastor Amanda Kempthorne; Worship 9; Sunday School 9:50.

Garrison — Light of the Cross (ELCA), Worship 9 SS 9; 320-692-4773 or 877-406-9101.

Garrison — Shepherd of the Lake (LCMS), Rev. Caleb Worrel. Worship 10 with Communion Every Sunday. Adult Bible Study 8:30am, Sunday School Sept-May. 8:30am. Fellowship 11am. 320-692-4581. www.shepherdofthelake.org

Giese — Immanuel, Rev. R. Langhorst & Rev. R. Lovaas; Worship 9; SS 10; Holy Communion 1st Sun. of month 8:45.

Hill City — Trinity, (Missouri Synod), Pastor M. Eckert; Worship 9; Bible Study 10:15.

Hillman — Immanuel, (ELCA) Sun. Worship 9:30, SS 10. Located on the corner of Hwy. 27 and Co. Rd. 47. (Handicap accessible)

Iron Hub — Immanuel (LC-MS), Pastor Dean Stolz; Worship 10:30, (alternates with Zion of Crosby) 218-534-3069

Isle — Faith (ELCA), Interim Pastor Rev. Henry French; Worship 9:30; handicapped accessible.

Isle — Holden (ELCA), SS 9:30; Worship 10:30.

Isle — Trinity (Missouri Synod), Rev. Mark Maunula; Worship 9; Fellowship follows; SS 10:30; Adult Bible 10:30.

Jacobson — Carmel, Vicar Mark Wagner; SS 1st & 3rd Sun. 10, Service 11, fellowship follows.

Lake Shore — Living Savior Lutheran Church, 8327 Interlachen Rd.; Worship 9 Sunday mornings, followed by fellowship and Bible study. (Located on Co. Rd. #77 N)

Malmo — Bethesda (ELCA) Rev. James Muske: Sun. Worship 9am. Fellowship following Service. Communion every Sunday.

McGrath — Grace; Wed. potluck 5 pm, Bible study 6 p.m.; SS 10; Worship 11.

McGrath — Zion (ELCA), Pastor Elliott Malm; Worship 9; SS 9.

McGregor/Big Sandy Lake — Grace Lutheran Log Church (LCMC), Pastor Lorelie Robinson; Worship 9, Fellowship follows, SS 10.

McGregor — Our Savior's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua C. Reinke; Worship 9; SS 10; Bible Study Tue. 9, Wed. 7 pm

Outing — Our Saviors ELCA; Pastor Luke Lekander, Worship 9.

Palisade* — Bethel (ELCA), Pastor Steven Teff; Worship 9:30. Pequot Lakes - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (LCMS) Pastor Monte Meyer Worship 9 am, Fellowship 10 am, Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 10:15 am

Pequot Lakes* - Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA) Rev. Stephen Blenkush Worship 9:00 a.m., SS 9:15 a.m., Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Wed. Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

Tamarack (AFLC) — Pastor Ron Staudinger; 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10 am; 41163 Kestrel Ave 3.3 mi. South of Hwy 210

Thor — Zion, Worship 11; 1st and 3rd Sun. April through December.

Wright — Bethlehem, Worship; SS 9.

Wright — St. John's (Missouri Synod), Pastor Joshua Reinke; Worship 10:30; Bible Study and Sunday School Sun. 9:30; Lent services Wed. 5:30 pm.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Brainerd—Oak Street Chapel, Pastor Todd Wooden, Worship service is Sunday at 9:30, 523 SE 11th Street, Brainerd, 218-454-0984

Brainerd—Remnant Ministry Center, Pastor Ben Davis, Worship service is Sunday at 10am, 512 S 8th St., Suite 2, 218-829-2989.

PENTECOSTAL

Baxter — Christ Alive, 12485 Forestview Drive, Baxter, MN 56425
Emily — Cornerstone Church; Pastor Earl Ready; Worship 10, 41536 Birchwood Drive, Emily; 218-763-2939.

Ironton — Iron Range Christian Center; Pastor Dwight Semler; 218-546-6523; meeting at Irondale Town Hall , Co. Rd. 12, (Deerwood Shortcut); Worship 10 & Wed. 7 pm.

Tamarack — Warriors of the Rainbow Ministry, Pastors Ken and Ron Fairbanks, Sat. 11. 218-768-3585

PRESBYTERIAN

Crosslake - Pastor Mark Ford, 218-692-4769; Worship 9; Fellowship 11, 14444 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake, just passed the Community Center; www.crosslakepres.org.

McGrath — Calvary, Pastor - Todd Oltmann; Worship 9. McGregor/Round Lake — Pastor Talley; Worship Sat. 5 pm. Tamarack — First, Rev. J. Yingling; Worship 11.

REFORMED

Crosby — Lifespring Church, a member of Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals, 9:30, 30 Hallett Ave NE 218-545-5433. www.vitalifespring.com

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Aitkin — Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 9:30, Bible Study 10:30; Prayer Mtg. Wed. 5:30 p.m.; www.aitkinadventist.org; 423-805-0933

Brainerd — Pastor Roger Hagen; Worship Sat. 11:20, Bible Study 10; Bible Study & Prayer Mtg. Wed. 6:30 p.m.; 2910 Oak Street, Brainerd, 218-829-1676

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Pequot Lakes — 28877 State Hwy 371, Pequot Lakes 10:30 1st and 4th Sundays. 218-330-3476

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Brainerd — First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St, Brainerd. Sunday worship at 10. Pastor; Leslie Moughty. Handicapped accessible.

UNITED METHODIST

Aitkin* — Aitkin - Pastor Dawn Houser; Worship 10, Wednesdays at 5:30 pm Bible & Brew, Facebook live.
Crosby/Deerwood* — Cascade, Pastor Gary Taylor; Sunday Worship with Youtube live streaming 10 am with fellowship to follow. Cascade Ladies meet on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Come & Eat Community dinner on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Please call the office to sign up: 218-534-3507.

Cutler* (South Aitkin County) — Pine Lake Chapel, Pastor Gary Taylor; Worship Sunday 1 p.m. Fellowship follows. Cromwell — Pastor Tim Hornstad; Worship 10; SS 9

Republicans weigh in on shortfall

State officials issued a new economic forecast for Minnesota on Thursday, Feb. 29 with a looming \$1.5 billion shortfall through 2027 overshadowing a \$3.715 billion surplus for the current biennium.

"The level to which Democrats pulled a bait-and-switch on Minnesota taxpayers is horrific," State Rep. Ben Davis, R-Mission Township said. "They told the public they support a quick tax bill fix, a full elimination of the tax on Social Security, and \$2000 rebate checks for Minnesotans. But when they gained full control of the Capitol and had their chance to follow through, they broke their promises to Minnesotans and instead used the \$17.5 billion surplus to raise government spending by a whopping 40 percent. They increased taxes by \$10 billion along the way and left our state on the brink

of a shortfall.

"Minnesotans are saying enough is enough and will hold Democrats accountable for their total disregard of taxpayers. We need more balance to the Capitol."

"It is truly remarkable to think where we've come in the last 12 months," said State Representative Josh Heintzeman, R-Nisswa. "This time last year, the state was looking at the largest budget surplus in Minnesota history at \$17.5 billion. Instead of giving that surplus back to you, the hardworking taxpayers, Democrats spent the entire surplus, raised taxes by nearly \$10 billion, and grew overall government spending by 40%. Now, the state is facing a looming budget deficit. You, your family, and your family budget deserve better."

"Democrats blew through a \$19 billion surplus. The

only reason they barely kept us in the black is they also hit Minnesotans with \$10 billion in tax increases," Senator Justin Eichorn (R-Grand Rapids) said. "But the consequences are just around the corner, as we are now facing a sizable structural budget deficit. We can't trust Democrats to protect family budgets. It is irresponsible governing."

On Tuesday, Senate Republicans unveiled their Repair Minnesota agenda aimed at fixing mistakes and reversing the consequences of bills that Democrats approved during the 2023 legislative session.

The state is fully funded for the current two-year cycle, meaning no additional state spending is necessary this session. The new bottom line will guide legislators through supplemental fiscal considerations the rest of the 2024 session.

Proposed ice rescue relief

A bill that would provide financial relief to local law enforcement officials conducting search and rescue operations on unsafe ice received its first hearing on Thursday, Feb. 29 in the Minnesota Senate.

Senate File 3882, authored by State Senator Justin Eichorn (R-Grand Rapids), would reimburse sheriff's offices for costs incurred during rescues of individuals who have fallen through frozen lakes. Under current law, sheriff's offices are eligible for reimbursement from the federal government for open-water rescue operations. That funding does not apply to missions conducted on frozen lakes, rivers, or ponds.

Sen. Eichorn's bill would provide a reimbursement from the DNR to cover ice rescue costs, providing fairness between the two types of water-related rescue operations.

Sen. Eichorn said he was surprised to learn that this wasn't done already. "We hear about these issues all the time, every single winter. It should have been changed a long time ago. This is one easy way for us to be a better partner with our counties and sheriffs in this important effort. Thank you to Sheriff Ramsey and Sheriff Welk for coming down to the cities to share why this is so important with the committee."

Testifying before the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee, sheriffs Brian Welk of Cass County and Gordon Ramsey of St. Louis County offered passionate support for the bipartisan proposal.

"This is a common-sense bill," said Sheriff Welk, who shared a December 2023 incident in which his county's dive team recovered a drowning victim in Lake of the Woods

County but was denied reimbursement because it was an ice rescue.

With many northern Minnesota counties containing vast amounts of public land and lacking a sufficient tax base, the Eichorn bill would ease a major financial burden on local law enforcement offices.

"These rescues come at a cost," Sheriff Ramsey told lawmakers, who added that St. Louis County frequently leads the state in ice rescues and often assists neighboring counties. His office coordinates a 100-plus volunteer team that is often summoned to rescue individuals who break through thin spots.

The bill was laid over and will be considered for a larger environment and natural resources bill later in session.

Watch the bill presentation here: <https://youtu.be/C1CHk-bRlyjY?t=4114>

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